Done in Washington, DC, this 9th day of March 1998.

# Terry L. Medley,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 98–6588 Filed 3–13–98; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

# SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### 13 CFR Part 115

# Surety Bond Guarantees; Pilot Preferred Surety Bond Guarantee Program

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration. **ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule revises 13 CFR part 115 to conform it to Section 503 of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997 which was approved on December 2, 1997. This Act extends the period of the Pilot Preferred Surety Bond (PSB) Guarantee Program to September 30, 2000. Since this rule only implements the cited statute, it is published in final form without opportunity to comment. DATES: Effective March 16, 1998.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert J. Moffitt, Associate Administrator, Office of Surety Guarantees, (202) 205–6540.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Since this rule only extends the period of the Pilot PSB Program from September 30, 1997, to September 30, 2000, and makes no substantial change to the current regulation, SBA is not required to determine if this change constitutes a major rule for purposes of Executive Order 12291, to determine if it has a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U. S. C. 601 et seq), or to do a Federalism Assessment pursuant to Executive Order 12612. SBA certifies that these changes will not impose an annual record keeping or reporting requirement on 10 or more persons under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U. S. C. ch. 35). Finally, for purposes of E. O. 12778, SBA certifies that this rule, is drafted, to the extent practicable, in accordance with standards set forth in Section 2 of that order.

SBA is publishing this regulation as a final rule without opportunity for public comment pursuant to 5 U. S. C. 553 (b) (A).

# **List of Subjects in 13 CFR Part 115**

Claims, Small businesses, Surety bond.

For the reasons set forth above, part 115 of Title 13, Code of Federal

Regulations (CFR) is amended as follows.

# PART 115—SURETY BOND GUARANTEES

1. The Authority citation for Part 115 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 5 U. S. C. app 3; 15 U.S.C. 687b, 687c, 694a, 694b; Pub. L 105–135.

2. Amend § 115.61 by removing the date "1997" both times it appears, and replacing it with the date "2000".

Dated: February 27, 1998.

#### Aida Alvarez.

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98–6677 Filed 3–13–98; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 8025–01–P

# **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

# **Federal Aviation Administration**

# 14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 97-CE-124-AD; Amendment 39-10391; AD 98-06-13]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH Models 228–100, 228– 101, 228–200, and 228–201 Airplanes

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

**ACTION:** Direct final rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that applies to all Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH (Dornier) Models 228-100, 228-101, 228-200, and 228-201 airplanes equipped with certain main landing gear (MLG). This action requires replacing the MLG axle assembly with an MLG axle assembly of improved design. This AD is the result of mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by the airworthiness authority for Germany. The actions specified in this AD are intended to prevent main landing gear failure, which, if not corrected, could result in loss of control of the airplane during landing operations.

DATES: Effective June 15, 1998.

The incorporation by reference of certain publications listed in the regulations is approved by the Director of the Federal Register as of June 15, 1998.

Comments for inclusion in the Rules Docket must be received on or before April 13, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit comments in triplicate to the Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97–CE– 124–AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106.

Service information that applies to this AD may be obtained from Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH, Product Support, P.O. Box 1103, D–82230 Wessling, Federal Republic of Germany; telephone: (08153) 300; facsimile: (08153) 302985. This information may also be examined at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, Attention: Rules Docket No. 97–CE–124–AD, Room 1558, 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; or at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, suite 700, Washington, DC.

# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Karl M. Schletzbaum, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service, 1201 Walnut, suite 900, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 426–6934; facsimile: (816) 426–2169.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

# **Events Leading to the Issuance of This AD**

The Luftfahrt-Bundesamt (LBA), which is the airworthiness authority for Germany, notified the FAA that an unsafe condition may exist on all Dornier Models 228-100, 228-101, 228-200 and 228-201 airplanes equipped with MLG axle assemblies that have part numbers (P/N) A-511000D00F, A-521000D00F, A-511000E00F, and A-521000E00F, or FAA-approved equivalent part numbers. The LBA has received two incident reports of failed MLG axles. The investigation of these reports reveals that extreme operating loads will fatigue these MLG axles, which can lead to cracking and failure. These fatigue cracks are a result of manufacturing defects (grooves) along the inside radius of the axle. This condition, if not corrected, could result in loss of control of the airplane during landing operations.

# **Relevant Service Information**

Dornier has issued Service Bulletin No. SB–228–214, dated January 28, 1994, which specifies procedures for removing the MLG axle assembly (P/N's A–511000D00F, A–521000D00F, A–511000E00F, and A–521000E00F), and installing a new MLG axle assembly of improved design.

The LBA classified this service bulletin as mandatory and issued German AD 94–042 Dornier, dated February 9, 1994, in order to assure the continued airworthiness of these airplanes in Germany.